

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-10. (canceled)

11. (previously presented) In a method for displaying parameters of a set of companies that have been tree-mapped into plural levels wherein the companies are nodes at one level of the tree-map and nodes at subsequent levels up the tree-map from the one level are groups of companies sorted by predetermined characteristics, wherein the method includes displaying a frame that has a shape of a first geometrical figure and has plural second geometrical figures within the frame, showing relative values of a first parameter of the companies at selected tree-map levels as relative sizes of the second geometrical figures within the frame and showing relative values of a second parameter of the companies at the selected tree-map levels as different colors of the second geometrical figures within the frame, the improvement wherein the method further comprises the steps of:

when a change in the first parameter occurs at one of the nodes of the tree-map, recalculating values of the first parameter for ancestors of the one node at each level in a direction up the tree-map starting at the one node until a highest tree-map level is reached without recalculating values of the first parameter for nodes other than the one node and ancestors of the one node;

completely filling the frame with the second geometrical figures by reapportioning the relative sizes of the second geometrical shapes of nodes other than the one node and ancestors of the one node based on the recalculated value of the first parameter of the one node and of ancestors of the one node; and

displaying the frame with revised relative sizes of the second geometrical figures at selected levels of the tree-map to a user of information conveyed by the first and second parameters.

12. (previously presented) The improved method of claim 11, wherein the first and second parameters are selected from the group of parameters consisting of a value of a company, a fraction of a trading volume, and a change of share price.

13. (previously presented) The improved method of claim 11, wherein the displaying step includes displaying relative values of companies or groups of companies as the relative sizes of the second geometrical figures and displaying a change of share price of the companies or groups of companies as colors of the respective second geometrical figures.

14. (previously presented) The improved method of claim 13, further comprising the step of visualizing sizes and share price changes of companies and groups of companies on a stock exchange based on the information conveyed within the displayed frames at different tree-map levels.

15. (previously presented) The improved method of claim 11, wherein the first and second geometrical figures are rectangles or squares.

16. (previously presented) The improved method of claim 11, further comprising the step of revising the colors of the second geometrical figures following the step of completely filling the frame and before displaying the frame.

17. (previously presented) In a method for displaying parameters of companies on a stock exchange that have been tree-mapped into plural levels wherein the companies are nodes at one level of the tree-map and nodes at subsequent levels up the tree-map from the one level are groups of companies sorted into industry sectors, wherein the method includes displaying a frame that has a shape of a first geometrical figure and has plural second geometrical figures within the frame, showing relative values of the companies or groups of companies at selected tree-map levels as relative sizes of the second geometrical figures within the frame and showing a change of share price of the companies or groups of companies at the selected tree-map levels as different colors of the second geometrical figures within the frame, the improvement wherein the method further comprises the steps of:

when a value of one of the companies at one of the nodes of the tree-map changes, recalculating values for ancestors of the one node at each level in a direction up the tree-map starting at the one node until a highest tree-map level is reached without recalculating values of companies at nodes other than the one node and ancestors of the one node;

completely filling the frame with the second geometrical figures by reapportioning the relative sizes of the second geometrical shapes of nodes other than the one node and ancestors of the one node based on the recalculated values of the company at the one node and of the ancestors of the one node;

revising the colors of the second geometrical figures based on changes in share price; and

visualizing sizes and share price changes of the companies and groups of companies by displaying the frame with revised relative sizes and colors of the second geometrical figures at selected levels of the tree-map.

18. (previously presented) The improved method of claim 17, wherein the first and second geometrical figures are rectangles or squares.

19. (new) The improved method of claim 11, wherein only the value for the ancestors of the node in the direction towards higher levels based on the node in which the change has taken place is recalculated.